

Summer Non-paid Volunteer – OSWER/ORCR Assisting with RCRA Risk Assessment Projects

Describe program (mission/objectives):

The Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery's (ORCR's) Economics and Risk Analysis Staff (ERAS) is made up of economists, scientists, engineers, and risk assessors with a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise. These individuals provide both economic and risk analyses support to all of the Program Divisions within ORCR and occasionally for other Offices within the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). On the risk side, this support includes conducting human health and ecological risk assessments for proposed and final rules and potential recycling scenarios, overseeing data collection, advising states and regions on risk issues, and writing and reviewing guidance documents.

Define project(s), objective(s) and tasks/assignment(s):

Project(s):

EPA is continuously working to understand the risks associated with different waste management practices and to improve the science that underlies Agency risk assessments. In support of these goals, the intern would assist with one or more current projects, including, but not limited to: 1) review of waste management unit construction reports to characterize trends in design; 2) assist with assembling and reviewing data for ongoing beneficial use evaluations; and/or 3) assist with revisions to a guide for conducting beneficial use evaluations.

Objective(s):

This internship is a wonderful opportunity for the intern to actively participate in ongoing risk assessments and to gain direct insight into the Agency's regulatory process and program activities. The intern will work with a multi-disciplinary team of experts and get hands on experience. The work would provide a student with excellent technical and analytical skills in problem solving and risk assessment, which are highly marketable skills.

Task(s)/assignment(s):

The intern will be assigned tasks or tasks similar to those listed below:

- Conduct analyses, document analytical methods, and summarize results/findings for review.
- Research and prepare draft issue papers, briefings and decision documents.
- Acquire information from governmental and public sources to prepare analyses of databases.

[Note: The intern may also work on multiple projects during their internship.]

Identify prerequisite qualifications:

In order to perform effectively in this assignment the following qualifications are required:

- Background in geology, environmental science, or environmental/civil engineering;
- Outstanding analytical and research skills;

- Good communication skills, and experience working with teams and/or the public;
- Good writing skills, and experience preparing short informational documents;
- Intermediate to advanced skills in Microsoft Office applications, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access; and
- Interest/course work in environmental policy, environmental science, environmental engineering, statistics, and/or cost/benefit analyses.

Describe any other requirements such as travel or training: If you know there will be travel costs associated with conferences or training, please make sure to list details and costs here:

No additional requirements.